Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The main objective of the scheme is to create a channel for ex-servicemen, disabled soldiers and widows to get loan expeditiously to undertake agriculture and allied activities as also specified non-farm activities in the village, tiny, cottage and small scale industries sector. For deserving cases in non-farm sector, NABARD will provide margin money as a soft loan. The loans are to be sanctioned by Scheduled Banks, Land Development Banks or Regional Rural Banks, depending on the type of scheme, with refinance from NABARD. The maximum project of non-farm activity eligible for loan under this scheme is Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iii) *Interest Subsidy*: Ex-servicemen are given subsidy on the rate of interest on bank loans for self employment ventures including small scale industries for a period of three years For loans upto Rs. 5000/- the rate of interest payable by ex-servicemen entrepreneur is 4 per cent per annum whereas for loans from Rs. 5001/- to Rs. 50,000/- the rate of interest is 7 per cent per annum. The same rate of interest applies to the loans upto Rs. 1 lakh taken by Ex-servicemen Cooperative Societies. This interest subsidy is given by the Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board out of their Welfare Funds.

(iv) *Price Subsidy*: To encourage ex-servicemen to set up small scale industries, Central Government provides 10 per cent price subsidy subject to a maximum monetary limit of Rs 50,000/- in a year for a duration of 5 years on the value of any item manufactured by them and purchased by the Ministry of Defence/Inter-Service organisations on rate contract basis or any other approved method adopted by the purchase organisation.

(v) *PEXSEM (Preparing Ex-Servicemen for Self-Employment)*: To impart training to retired Defence personnel to prepare them for self employment close to their homes in rural areas, PEXSEM Scheme has been introduced in selected districts, with the cost shared equally by Centre and the State Governments from 1-4-1986. This is followed by loans from commercial banks to set up the Self-employment venture. Subsidy at 33-1/3 per cent subject to a limit of Rs. 3000 is given under the scheme upto a loan limit of Rs. 25,000/-.

PEXSEM Scheme is in operation in the following 3 districts of Andhra Pradesh:-

(1) Visakhapatnam

(2) Guntur

(3) Chittoor

Payment of allowances to service personnel

395. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that payment of allowances due to service-personnel of "other ranks" take inordinately long period and particularly the arrears of such cases with PAO (OR) Roorkee is very heavy;

(b) if so, what is the number accumulated cases as on 31-10-1988 in the PAO (OR) Roorkee; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure expeditious clearance of the payments due to the army personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The Service personnel below the rank of Commissioned officers are paid their salaries as monthly advances by the respective units. As such there is no delay in actual payment to the Service personnel. The documents received by the Pay and Accounts Office after payment has been made, are used for preparing the accounts in respect of each individual. The documents received after 30th April, 1988 are presently being adjusted by Pay and Accounts Office (ORs), Roorkee.

(b) As on 31-10-1988, 1.88 lakhs items received on or after 1-5-88 are pending adjustment in the accounts.

(c) All out efforts are being made to complete the adjustment of pending items by deploying the staff beyond normal working hours and progress is being watched by the Controller of Defence Accounts (ORs) North, Meerut and the Controller General of Defence Accounts.

To speed up the process of adjustments in the accounts, computerised maintenance of pay accounts is also being introduced in the different Pay and Accounts Offices in a phased programme.

Contracted rates of payment of rationed articles at defence service stations

396. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contracted rates of payment with respect to different items of rationed articles at different defence service stations are different and do not compare favourably with the All India Prices;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for variations in the cost of rationed articles payable to contractors; and

(c) what are the present contracted rates of milk, meat, vegetables and fruits for the stations at Bombay, Jam Nagar, Cochin, Goa, Delhi, Jallandhar, Guwahati, Ambala, Bikaner and Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The rates at which fresh supplies and perishable commodities are supplied vary from station to station. The difference caters for different market conditions, local availability, tranportsation requirements, etc. However, the rates compare favourably with the local rates for such supplies.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Station	Rates of items per kg/Ltr (in Rupees)			
		Milk	Meat dressed	Vegetables	Fruits
1	Bombay	*6.60	27.90	2.36	3.71
2	†Jamnagar	6.5	20.85	2.69	4.45
3	†Cochin	4.82	31.00	4.12	6.69
4	Goa	*5.15	29.71	3.39	5.91
†5	Delhi	*3.30	21.65	1.06	2.6
6	Jullandhar	@3.10	23.62	1.40	3.14
7	Bikaner	@3.50	18.29	1.53	3.05
8	Ambala	@3.90	23.19	1.29	2.81
9	Calcutta	*6.10	20.89	2.15	4.12
10	Guwahati	@3.80	23.10	2.77	5.01

(As there are a large number of varieties of vegetables and fruits, only average rates of these items have been indicated)

At present no milk contract has been concluded at Bombay, Goa, Ambala, Calcutta, Jullandhar, Bikaner and Guwahati where Military Farms are supplying milk. The rates of purchase given above are local purchase rates at which Military Farms are procuring milk.

*Buffalo milk of 6 per cent butter fat.

@Cow milk of 4 per cent butter fat.

†At Jamnagar and Delhi, milk is pro-cured by Army Service Corps and at Cochin by Navy as per ASC Specifications.